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said butt end having at least one portion with an outside diameter of about .460 inches.

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered prior to substantive examination of the application. These changes are submitted to place the application in better form for examination.

Applicant respectfully requests examination of this continued prosecution application noting that the prior arguments submitted in the response of September 4, 1998 establish that there is no suggestion to modify Akatsuka to include a narrower butt end of a shaft. Moreover, the Examiner has simply made the unsupported conclusion that it would be obvious to construct a narrower butt end diameter for players with smaller hands, such as children.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner cites prior art which is made of record, but not relied on, including Wang, which is alleged to disclose that it is desired to have the profile of a grip and shaft assume a configuration corresponding to the size and shape of a golfer's hand. Patterson is apparently cited for a disclosure of a child's golf club. These references actually further Applicant's contention of the unobviousness of the present invention. Moreover, Wang evidences the use of a grip to tailor the configuration of the golf club. However, there is no indication to narrow the shaft diameter. Accordingly, while a narrower overall grip may be provided, the kickpoint will not be shifted as is achieved in the present invention. Patterson, while disclosing children's golf clubs, makes no comments concerning constructing the clubs to have a narrow butt end diameter or even a narrower grip. In addition, if the Examiner is correct that children's clubs have a narrow butt end diameter, it is possible that the diameter would be narrower than the claimed .460". In any event, this contention should be supported--not merely speculated on. Furthermore, with respect to claims 3 and 21, Patterson would not encompass a golf club shaft having a length from 35 to 47 inches and a butt end diameter having at least one portion of about 0.460".

Moreover, the Examiner's reasoning leads to the conclusion that the child's club would also be shorter than a standard adult length.

With respect to claim 13, Applicant notes that the use of a narrower butt end diameter in a shorter children's shaft having a traditional taper, would not accomplish the claimed requirements for displacing a kick point near the butt end of the shaft. In this regard, no basis has been provided to change a standard taper profile.

If any fee is due in conjunction with the filing of this Amendment, Applicants authorize deduction of that fee from deposit account no. 06-0308.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **EXPRESS MAIL** in an envelope numbered **EL229905887US** addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on December 28, 1998.


Georgeen B. George